



Committee Members

Carl Weimer, Chair • Leo Bowman, Vice Chair
Duane Henderson • Grant Jensen • George Hills
Pete Kmet • Dave Barnes • Katie Hansen
Richard Kuprewicz • Shirley Olson
Bill Rickard • Jean Buckner • Bob Bandarra



Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

Meeting Minutes

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Olympia, WA

January 4, 2007

Present

Carl Weimer, Chair
Leo Bowman, Vice Chair
Pete Kmet
Katie Hansen
Rick Kuprewicz
Bill Rickard
Bob Bandarra
Duane Henderson
George Hills
Grant Jensen

Absent

Jean Buckner
Shirley Olson
David Barnes

Public present at the meeting

Alan Rathbun, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Tim Sweeney, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Ilyne Lawson, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Steve King, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Rebecca Post, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)
Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association (NWGA)
Daryl Pyne, Chevron Pipeline Company
Earl Tower, BP Olympic Pipeline Company
Keith Meissner, Cascade Natural Gas Company

Agenda:

1. Welcome, Introduction of Members and Visitors, Adoption of November 9, 2006 meeting minutes, Public Comment
2. Small Gas System Update
3. Proposed Legislation 2007
4. PHMSA Reauthorization
5. UTC Update

6. Stakeholder Report – Accompanying Letter for 2006
7. 2007 Workplan and Meeting Schedule
8. Revisiting Committee By-Laws
 - a) Decision Making
 - b) Leadership Terms
9. Future Meeting Locations and Agendas – Other Business
10. Adjourn

1. **Welcome and Adoption of November 9, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order and Carl Weimer, Chair, welcomed all attendees. Leo Bowman made a motion, seconded by Rick Kuprewicz, to adopt the minutes as presented, and the committee passed the motion unanimously. The committee agreed with Staff's request to shorten the meeting minutes going forward. Minutes are to include all action items and details on voting where appropriate.

2. **Small Gas Study**

Tim Sweeney, UTC Pipeline policy coordinator, briefed the committee on the most current activities conducted as part of the Small Gas Study. During a workshop in October, stakeholders provided feedback on the first draft of the Small Gas Study report. A final report identifying the risks will be made available by the consultant by the end of the month, but the study will continue with an inventory of publicly-owned systems and propane distribution systems.

3. **Proposed Legislation 2007**

a. **Agency Request Bill**

Tim Sweeney provided the committee with an update on proposed 2007 legislation. The committee discussed the contents of the bill. Tim Sweeney advised the committee that the bill as presented is the Governor approved agency request version and additional amendments to the bill can only be made after the bill reaches the committee. The UTC plans to offer a few technical amendments when the bill gets a hearing before a legislative committee.

The committee voted unanimously to support the proposed bill with the UTC proposed amendments. Carl Weimer, Leo Bowman, and Katie Hansen will be available to testify on behalf of the bill.

b. **Transportation Bill**

Steve King, UTC director of Consumer Affairs, discussed a bill proposed by Senator Haugen, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, that would remove transportation functions from the Utilities and Transportation Commission. The bill would recodify sections of Title 81. The bill may cause complications with the pipeline safety bill which consolidates statutory authority into a chapter in Title 81. . It is not Senator Haugen's intent to reassign Pipeline Safety to another State agency.

c. GIS Legislation

Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association, discussed legislation his organization is proposing that would amend RCW 81.88.080 and RCW 42.56.330 reiterating the NWGA's on this issue.

Leo Bowman made a motion, seconded by Katie Hansen, to support the NWGA's recommended changes. The motion passed on a 5 to 2 vote. Carl Weimer, Leo Bowman, Katie Hansen, Rick Kuprewicz, and Bob Bandarra voted for the motion while Bill Rickard and Pete Kmet voted against the motion.

Leo Bowman made a motion, seconded by Pete Kmet, to direct the UTC to include the language proposed by the NWGA which amends RCW 81.88.080 in their agency request bill. The language supported is "The commission shall provide to first responders, state agencies, and local governments data the commission gathers and the maps it creates from the Geographical Information Systems described in this section. This commission shall provide or make available for inspection by other entity any maps, or map images, illustrating line-pipe location so long as such map, or map image, is no greater detail than 1:24,000." Leo also added that the NWGA promised to support and pursue this language. Dan Kirschner concurred.

Pete Kmet offered an amendment to the motion that would start after the language "...is no greater detail than 1:24,000." The addition of: "...provided a line representing line pipe location are no wider than the right of way." After some discussion, the amendment was not seconded. Pete Kmet announced that without the amendment he could not support the motion.

4. PHMSA Reauthorization

Alan Rathbun, UTC Pipeline Safety Director, provided an overview of the reauthorization of the Pipeline Safety Act.

Some of the amendments discussed include:

- ◆ Damage prevention penalties and authority
- ◆ Enforcement transparency
- ◆ Distribution Integrity Management
- ◆ Excess Flow Valves
- ◆ Control Center Human Management Plan

5. UTC Update

Alan Rathbun, UTC Pipeline Safety Director, provided an update from the pipeline safety section.

Attorney General seeks enforcement action related to damage prevention

At the request of state utility regulators, the Office of the Attorney General will seek a stiff penalty against a Puget Sound-area construction company that has repeatedly hit and damaged underground utility wires and pipelines.

The enforcement action prepared by the Attorney General's Office at the request of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) cites Talerico Construction, Inc. of Puyallup for illegally digging near major utility lines without taking the proper precautions. The state is seeking as much as \$61,000 in fines.

According to Puget Sound Energy (PSE) records, Talerico employees have struck and damaged the utility's underground electrical wiring and natural-gas pipelines 10 different times over the last two years. In each case, energy service was disrupted to PSE customers and the safety of utility workers and the public was put at risk.

In another case, the commission has directed a letter to the Attorney General seeking enforcement action against a second excavator operating in southwest Washington. This excavator has also repeatedly failed to comply with RCW 19.122.

Agreement reached with City of Enumclaw

On Dec. 13, 2006, the commission approved a stipulated agreement between the City of Enumclaw and the UTC's pipeline safety program. The agreement requires the city to develop new safety procedures for its employees to follow when operating and maintaining the city's natural gas utility service. The agreement also requires that the city dedicate a natural gas systems engineer who will supervise at least four other qualified staff in the maintenance and operation of the natural gas system. The qualifications of the staff will be maintained through a new training plan that is also required under the settlement.

Earlier this year, the UTC pipeline safety program conducted an inspection of the city's natural gas operations and procedures. The inspection was a follow-up of a previous inspection which identified recurring problems with the city's natural gas service procedures. These procedures ranged from setting and installing relief valves and vents to determining when to replace corroded or damaged pipelines. The follow-up inspection found several areas where the city's procedures still fell short of state and federal safety standards. In the following months, the city has worked to correct those deficiencies. The purpose of the settlement is to ensure that Enumclaw's natural gas system continues to operate within safety requirements.

Olympic Pipeline returns to 100% maximum operating pressure (MOP)

Staff has previously reported that following completion of all requirements under the federal Corrective Action Order, Olympic was authorized to return to normal operation. Following completion of a management of change process, Olympic returned to normal operating pressure in late December. Following a couple of product runs, Olympic reinstated the 80% maximum pressure limit in order to evaluate performance of their system. They plan on returning to 100% early next week.

Williams completes Capacity Replacement Project

Williams' Northwest Pipeline announced that its capacity replacement project in the state of Washington has been completed and is in service. Completion of the project marks the culmination of work which initially began in 2003.

The capacity replacement project involved abandoning 268 miles of 26-inch pipeline between Sumas and Washougal, Wash., and the construction of approximately 80 miles of 36-inch pipeline in four sections along the same pipeline corridor.

Northwest also modified five existing compressor stations to create an additional 10,760 net horsepower. The capacity replacement project has substantially replaced the approximately 360,000 dekatherms per day of capacity previously provided by the 26-inch pipeline.

Heavy rains expose a segment of Williams' natural-gas pipeline

Approximately 300 feet of a high-pressure natural-gas pipeline was uncovered due to heavy rains in early November. The exposed 30-inch pipeline is along the north bank of the Toutle River, just north of Castle Rock. As a precaution, the pipeline operator, Williams Northwest, is reducing the gas pressure from 700 pounds per square inch to 400 pounds per square inch for a segment of the pipeline that includes the exposed section. To accomplish this, the company must shut valves north and south of the exposed pipeline. While there is no immediate threat of a pipeline break, isolating this section of pipeline and reducing the pressure lowers the risk of rupture and the amount of gas that would get released in the event of a line break. The parallel 26-inch pipeline operated by Williams is not threatened at this time. Williams Northwest is able to continue to provide gas to the community of Castle Rock as well as to all other customers.

Williams connected a mobile Liquefied Natural Gas unit to its Castle Rock meter station to ensure gas service to the community of Castle Rock while it pursues work on an exposed pipeline. The company then emptied the shut-in segment of pipeline and began installing a temporary pipeline to by pass the stretch of exposed pipeline. This temporary bypass was replaced with a 30-inch longer term temporary bypass in late December while a permanent solution is sought.

Pipeline Safety staff to meet with Fire Marshal Mike Matlick

Staff scheduled a meeting with the Fire Marshal on January 18 to brief him on our program and discuss opportunities for future cooperative efforts. We anticipate this first meeting to be primarily informational with no action items likely.

Status of Member Reappointment

We again asked the governor's office for a status update on the reappointment of members. We were told that appointments should be made by the end of January.

6. Stakeholder Report – Accompanying Letter for 2006

The Committee discussed the 2004-2005 Stakeholder Report and 2006 Stakeholder Letter. UTC Staff will make copies and distribute both documents to relevant parties. The UTC will also post both documents to the citizens committee website.

7. **2007 Workplan and Meeting Schedule**

The committee discussed the work-plans. Committee members agreed with the work-plans that were proposed and prioritized over the past few meetings.

Members added pipeline siting and replacement issues; and public disclosure laws to the list of discussion topics.

The committee voted unanimously to accept the proposed 2007 work-plan and add items as necessary. Staff requested for the Chair and Vice Chair designate topics to appear on specific meeting agendas.

8. **Revisiting Committee By-Laws**

The committee reviewed sections of the 2005 citizens committee charter/bylaws.

a. **Decision Making**

The committee voted unanimously to recommend changes to section six, Decision-making Methods, of the Bylaws at the next meeting.

Recommended changes to section six of the Bylaws should reflect "Voting will be by simple majority of the voting members *present*. The Chair will solicit input and opinions on issues from all Committee members and then conclude decision making with a vote by voting members *present*." - which will include members attend the meeting telephonically.

b. **Leadership Terms**

"The committee voted unanimously to recommend changes to section sixteen, Bylaw Adoption and Amendment, of the Bylaws at the next meeting.

Committee bylaws must be adopted by affirmative vote of a majority of voting members appointed to the Committee. Amendments to the bylaws may be made after *distribution* of the amendment to all members, discussion of the proposed amendment at a regularly scheduled meeting, and affirmative vote by a simple majority of the Committee's voting members. *Exceptions to the bylaws can be made under extraordinary circumstances by a majority of voting members.*"

Grant Jensen asked about the section in the 2005 Bylaws that explained the committee's position on making visitor presentations public record. Since this topic was not documented in the Bylaws, the matter would be researched.

9. **Future Meeting Locations and Agendas – Other Business**

The committee agreed to have a conference call on February 15. Public will be invited to join the conference call. The committee meetings in Vancouver and Bellingham will occur on Wednesday and Thursday.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.